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(concl'd) a finger disposed between and separating the first fence strand retaining area and the second fence strand retaining area when the second end of said second portion is engaged with the second end of said first portion; and

means for mounting the retainer clip on a fence post.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The means for mounting the retainer clip on a fence post added to claim 18 is supported, for example, by Figs. 4-7. Claims 18-31 remain pending.

Claims 18, 20-23, 27, 28, 30 and 31 have been rejected as anticipated by Wong. Claims 18, 20-24, 26-28 and 30-31 have been rejected as anticipated by Guido. Claims 19, 24-26 and 29 have been rejected as obvious over Wong in view of Matsui. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants note that each of the applied references is directed to a field of endeavor (specimen tube holder in Wong, pipe clip in Guido, wire bundle clamp in Matsui) that is completely removed from that of a fence strand retainer clip. Applicants respectfully note that the preamble and similar limitations in the claims are entitled to at least some consideration, and in view of the unrelated nature of the references this alone should be sufficient to distinguish the references.

Moreover, independent claim 18 requires the presence of means for mounting the retainer clip on a fence post. None of the applied references include such a feature, and again, each of the applied references is directed to a field completely remote from fence strand retainer clips. Even if other art of record is directed to fence strand retainer clips, nothing in the present record suggests any motivation for combining such art with the applied references from those remote fields of endeavor. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn.

The pending claims have been rejected for obviousness double patenting over Serial No. 08/909,286 and U.S. 5,975,501. These rejections are rendered moot by the Terminal Disclaimer presented below. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the reasoning of the rejections. The disclaimer fee of \$130 is filed herewith.